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MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1965.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

A. HUGHES, C.R.S.H.

Council Offices,

MASHAM, YORKS.


Telephone: Masham 578.

District Council Offices,

MASHAM.

H. DIGGLES,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

North Riding of Yorkshire.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Councillor H.H. Hardy)

The Vice-Chairman (Councillor T. Reynolds)

and all the members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. H. Diggles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Area Health Offices,

The Wensleydale Secondary Modern School,
LEYBURN, Yorks.

Telephone: Leyburn 2125.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

A. Nunn, C.R.S.H.

Council Offices,

MASHAM, Yorks.

Telephone: Masham 378.

Area Health Office,

LEYBURN.

1966.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1965.

In 1965 the state of public health in Masham was very satisfactory. There were no maternal deaths, stillbirths, or deaths from tuberculosis.

The provision of adequate sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the district is satisfactory.

The water supply is now controlled by the Northallerton and Dales Water Board.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the Members and Officials of the Council for the help and support I have received from them during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. DIGGLES,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	25,995
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1965).	1,610
Population (1931 Census)	2,024
Population (1951 Census)	1,738
Number of Inhabited houses 1965.	577
Rateable Value (at 1st April 1965)	£69,084
Product of a penny rate (1st April 1965)	£277.15

(b) VITAL STATISTICS (AS SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL)

	MALES			FEMALES		
	Total	Legit imate	Illegi timate	Total	Legit imate	Illegi timate
LIVE BIRTHS	12	12	-	13	12	1
STILL BIRTHS	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>						
UNDER 1 YEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDER 4 WEEKS	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDER 1 WEEK	-	-	-	-	-	-

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	-	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease.	-	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	1	2	3
Other Heart Disease.	2	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	3	2	5
Coronary Disease, Angina.	2	5	7
Bronchitis.	1	-	1
Other Circulatory Disease.	-	1	1
All other Accidents.	1	1	2
Suicide.	1	-	1
	-----	-----	-----
	11	14	25
	-----	-----	-----

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which deals with the compulsory removal to a place of safety of persons in need of care and attention.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

Ambulance Facilities.

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Thirsk.

Hospital Services.

Local Hospital accomodation is provided by the Northallerton Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at hospitals under the control of the Ripon and Harrogate Management Committee of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board.

Nursing in the Home.

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery services are under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee through the District Medical Officer. One district nurse/midwife operates in the area.

Domestic Health Service.

This service is under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee.

SECTION C.

Water Supplies.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION E.

Meat and Other Foods.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Infectious Diseases Notified.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough.	1	-	1
Measles.	23	24	47

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my report on the third year of my service as your Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

The year was not marked by any major event, but the absence of such occasions does permit one to give better attention to the minor items which in total affect the lives of the inhabitants of the district to the same extent. It was possible, this year, to carry out the first stage of the improvements needed to the drainage on the north side of the road at Fearby and though the second stage was still to be commenced the section dealt with caused no further flooding during the year.

It is disappointing to record that there was no real improvement in the effluent from the Masham Sewage Works over the year, but my next report will, no doubt, show that the policy of giving these works the fullest attention possible has started to bring about the desired result.

No new legislation affecting my work came into force during the year, but the appearance of the Building Regulations - to become operative early in 1966 - gave sufficient material to study in the odd moments when immediate matters had been dealt with.

The presentation of this report gives me the opportunity to express my thanks to the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and his staff for the help given to me in the performance of my duties. I would also like to record my appreciation of the conscientious way in which the Council's workman has carried out his duties at all times.

I have, Gentlemen, the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR NUNN,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies in the area are under the control of the Northallerton and the Dales Water Board, with the exception of two small areas attached to and supplied from the reservoirs of the Leeds Corporation and the Claro Water Board. Regular contact is kept with the officers of the Board responsible for the day to day operation of the supply.

Alterations to schemes during the year.

A small alteration to the scheme at Ilton prevents undue pressure being built up at the hydraulic ram, and prevents a large proportion of the breaks in supply which occurred in connection with this scheme.

Details of water supply.

The supply has, at all times, been sufficient, demand has risen by approximately 10% over previous years.

Water Sampling.

A total of 15 samples was taken during the year, of which 12 were from supplies provided by the Board. Only one of these 12 samples was not satisfactory, but a follow-up sample a week later was reported as satisfactory. The other three samples were taken on private supplies. Results from two of these samples showed that a new supply provided for cattle was better than the existing supply to domestic premises on the same farm. As the new supply is considered sufficient for all purposes it has been recommended that the new supply be connected, also, to the domestic premises. The third sample indicated a point on this new supply where contamination was liable to enter, and the attention of the owner was drawn to this defect.

Distribution of Water.

The following numbers of inhabited houses were supplied with water, all being service pipes:

Public Supplies:-

Northallerton & the Dales Water Board.	502
Other Public Supplies.	7

Private Supplies:-

68

Inspections.

A total of 36 visits was made in connection with water supplies, in addition to the 15 visits for sampling.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Sewers.

The sewers in the district serve all dwellings capable of connection at reasonable cost under present conditions. The following minor works have been carried out during the year:-

i) An extension to the main at Ellingstring. To enable improvements to be made to a cottage, and to provide sewerage to a suitable standard to a further cottage, the main at the west of the village was extended by a further 55 yards. As this main was to be laid in the roadside verge it was considered that Pitch Fibre pipe could be used successfully. The necessary work was completed in two and a half days with only moderately skilled labour under proper supervision.

ii) The extension of the river outfall from the Wellgarth area of Masham was made when the condition of the river made work possible. The small area of river bank affected is almost clear of the pollution previously caused.

Sewage Works.

Masham: Over the year under report, this works showed no improvement in the quality of effluent. Laboratory reports indicate that the crude sewage entering the works was between two and three times as strong as normal domestic sewage, but a search produced no particular source of anything but spasmodic discharges of such effluents to the sewers. It has been possible to increase, greatly, the frequency of tank emptying and it is anticipated that this should, in time, affect the quality of effluent. If one may be permitted to turn the page, the results to be reported for 1966 actually do show a great improvement.

Fearby: This plant is very efficient and reports on the effluent have, invariably been satisfactory.

Ellingstring: After certain works had been done here, an improvement appeared, but it is evident that much more time will have to be devoted to this plant to bring about the radical change necessary.

Visits in connection with sewerage and drainage were as follows:-

Masham Sewers & Sewage Works.	330
Fearby Sewers & Sewage Works.	17
Ellingstring Sewers & Sewage Works.	12
Ilton - Drainage.	5
Healey - Drainage.	8
Masham Ejector Station.	23
Drains Tested.	8
Drains Cleared.	12

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service continued satisfactorily under contract. The whole of the area now receives a collection service - outlying farms have now been given a quarterly collection for items which are not, otherwise, easily disposable, and from reports received, this covers their needs. Further improvements are being considered to increase the frequency of collection in the larger villages.

The tip in Healey quarry was operated satisfactorily on a system of crude tipping and incineration, followed by compaction. Regular inspections have been made for rat infestation and appropriate treatment carried out as necessary.

26 visits in all were made to the tip.

HOUSING.

The general standard of housing in the district is satisfactory. The policy of gradual improvement of houses voluntarily by owners is continuing at a pace commensurate with the availability of suitable labour. Every encouragement is given to owners to carry out improvements with the aid of either standard or discretionary grants and these facilities are being taken up by landlords and owner/occupiers. It was necessary, during the year, to refuse one application due to grant-aided work having been commenced prior to the application having been made.

The Council's current building programme has been completed and all land owned by the Council for housing has been developed. Further progress must depend on the acquisition of land but it is necessary first, to decide in which direction from the centre of the town any new development should take place. Progress eastwards is barred by the river Ure; a certain amount of industry is situated to the north, and in any case land not developed in this area is low-lying; to the west the Swinney beck presents an obstacle to gravitational sewerage and to the south the long face of the Market Place obstructs quick access to the town centre. One of these must eventually be overcome.

Private housing has recommenced with the opening up of a new site on which dwellings are likely to be built at prices acceptable to local purchasers. An existing site, with 16 plots available, is not, at present, progressing.

Statistics in connection with housing:-

No. of occupied houses in the district.	577
No. of full inspections made.	10
No. of houses closed.	-
No. of houses demolished.	-

Improvement Grants:-

No. of visits of inspection and interviews.	39
No. of Grant applications: Standard.	8
Discretionary.	3
No. of houses improved with Grant Aid.	
Standard.	4
Discretionary.	6

Council Housing:-

The Council's stock of houses comprises:-

4	Four bedroom houses
58	Three bedroom houses
18	Two bedroom bungalows
3	One bedroom bungalows.

In addition to the regular weekly rent call, 60 visits were made in connection with specific repairs.

BUILDING BYELAWS

No. of Plans submitted to and approved by the Council.	13
No. of visits to works in progress.	40

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The 100% inspection of animals slaughtered for human food has continued during the year, 62 visits being made to the slaughterhouse to inspect:-

Bullocks and Heifers	79
Pigs	40
Sheep	307
Calf	1
Sow	1

Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis.

No cases of either of these conditions were found.

Meat and Food Condemned.

Eight cases of lambs with pulpy kidney disease were brought into the slaughterhouse, two being moribund, the other six being incapable of satisfactory bleeding. All eight were condemned.

Sheep carcasses and organs	284 lbs.
Bullock Liver (flukes)	3 lbs.
Pig Pluck	4 lbs.
Canned Meats	17 lbs.
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	19 lbs.
Other foods	6 lbs.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

32 visits were paid to premises controlled by these regulations. One business, not complying with regulation 19 ceased to function in the early part of the year.

Details requested by paragraph 8(c) of Ministry of Health Circular 1/66:

	<u>Butchers.</u>	<u>Bakehouse Grocer, Cafe.</u>	<u>General Dealers</u>
No. in district.	2	3	7
Complying with Regulation 16.	2	3	7
Subject to Regulation 19.	2	2	1
Complying with Regulation 19.	2	2	1

RODENT AND INSECT INFESTATION.

The Council offer a free service for the control of domestic invasions of rats and mice, and assistance and advice in dealing with farm and business infestations.

In only one instance was it found necessary to carry out a block control.

54 visits were made in carrying out this section of the work.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No. of sites licensed for permanent occupation.	1
No. of sites licensed for seasonal occupation.	2
(only one of these latter in use)	

In addition a number of caravans are in use for short periods during the summer, two sites are frequently used by the Boy Scouts Organisation and one site is used by the Caravan Club for an annual week-end rally. All these sites were operated in a satisfactory manner. Visits are paid to the Scouts and Caravan Club sites mainly as a matter of courtesy, and the occasion invariably results in better relations with the organisations concerned.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

There are three industrial furnaces in the district. A general watch is kept on chimneys, but on no occasions have emissions warranted the making of 30 minute observations.

FACTORIES.

The following details on factories are the relevant sections of the table required by the Ministry of Labour to be furnished under Section 153(1) of the Factories Act 1961.

1. Inspections.

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted</u>
(ii) Factories in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	23	26	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced.	3	85	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

No defects were found and no cases were referred to or by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Outworkers.

There are no known outworkers in the district and no notifications have been received.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is a copy of the narrative report submitted to the Minister of Labour:-

The inspection of premises under this Act was carried much further this year, the emphasis being placed on offices, which are not inspected periodically under any other legislation.

Throughout the majority of inspections only points of minor importance to the health of the persons working were found, the most serious being first aid boxes not containing all the required articles. All had a supply of the most used items, but not all were stored under proper conditions.

Only one office was seriously deficient in amenities, but the occupier has stated that he anticipated that it will be closed in the near future or made to comply with the Act. This office is only open during limited hours - no more than four on any of the six days of opening - and the one person concerned has made personal arrangements to cover the missing facilities. If the office is to remain open the occupier will make formal application for the necessary exemptions. This office, also, has a very poor standard of artificial lighting.

Temperature.

At two premises temperatures were found to be below the statutory minimum, but in both cases the employees, interviewed in the absence of their employers, insisted that if the temperature were any higher they would feel uncomfortably warm. In both cases equipment was present which would have been capable of emitting the extra heat required and in these circumstances I consider that to insist on the observance of the letter of the law would have contravened its spirit.

Exemptions.

One application for exemption from the provisions of Section 9 of the Act was received from the occupier of an office where only one person is employed. Satisfactory arrangements for this person are known to have existed for over 15 years and as the space available would not be sufficient to provide the amenity a recommendation is to be made to the Council at its first meeting in 1966 to approve the exemption. The remaining facilities of drinking water, hot running water and washing facilities were installed some years ago.

Accidents.

No reports of accidents were received during the year and none is known to have occurred. In discussions with the occupiers of offices this seems to be the part of the Act least known, but, again, in a small district as this, it is unlikely that any serious accident would occur without the Officers of the Council becoming aware of the occurrence within a very short time.

General.

In no case was formal action necessary on any matter administered by this Authority.

OTHER VISITS

In addition, the following visits were made on other matters under the jurisdiction of the Council:-

Interviews on various matters.	87
Hairdressers.	8
Petroleum Regulations.	7
Planning Acts.	2
Council Property.	37
Parks and Gardens.	45

